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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MALLING

ANNUAL REPORT

on the
Health of the Malling District
for the year 1959



By
The Medical Officer of Health
DR. F. H. M. DUMMER
and
Chief Public Health Inspector
H. C. COLDRICK

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

F. H. M. Dummer, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. C. Coldrick, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

E. L. Allsop, M.A.P.H.I.,A.R.S.H.

R. Marsdin, M.A.P.H.I.

R. M. Cripps, M.A.P.H.I.

Cleansing Officer:

A. J. Weller, M.I.T.A.

Clerks:


F. P. Green: R. W. Wellard:

Miss D. M. Cosstick

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Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
High Street,
WEST MALLING.
Kent.
(West Malling 3334)

6th July 1960.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemon,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the Health of the Rural District of Malling.

From the following pages you will see that a very considerable volume of work has been carried out by the staff of your Public Health Department. The detailed pages of Mr. Coldrick's report will show you the increasing scope which is now being dealt with in the field of health and environmental hygiene.

A very substantial total of 9,891 inspections were carried out in 1959, as compared with 7,814 in the previous year. This has involved visits to all kinds of premises where the standards of public health had to be maintained, and in many cases new works had to be carried out. I think it is fair to say that a considerable proportion, indeed the majority, of this work is done by persuasion, co-operation and tact, and that in very few instances is it necessary to serve statutory notices. This reflects great credit on the Inspectorate, and I am very glad to give it publicity.

In the field of health generally, 1959 was not too good a year for Malling Rural District. The number of cases of infectious disease, although not of a serious nature, rose considerably.

The most outstanding feature of this Report is the relatively high infantile mortality rate, which is above that of England and Wales in general. At the same time, it is fair to say that very small additions in the aggregate reveal a disproportionate incidence when calculated on the basis of per thousand population.

The number of premature births accounted for much of this mortality, and in some cases the prematurity was so extreme as not to make maintenance of life possible. There were also several instances of congenital abnormalities, and this is a cause which is very difficult to prevent. The national rate for infantile mortality was 22.0 per thousand of the population, which is an all-time low level for England and Wales, and we may well be reaching a stage where no further dramatic decreases are likely. At the same time it behoves us to pay attention to any scientific advances which will help to bring down the infant death rate.

The figures for diphtheria immunisation are still far too low to allow any complacency. Although the District has been free of diphtheria for a long time, the main bulwark of protection has been the immunity which exists in the community, and is only maintained by the routine immunisation of each successive young age group. If there is any serious falling off in this respect, the menace of diphtheria will not be far off. It would, for example, be particularly tragic, if the protection which is now afforded against poliomyelitis should be bought at the expense of diphtheria immunisation.

During the year your Inspectors, and particularly Mr. Coldrick, have carried out their work with enthusiasm and efficiency, and I am very pleased indeed to add my tribute to the outstanding co-operation and loyalty which has been shown by the Inspectorate.

This work has been eased by the support and interest which all Members have given, and I am very grateful to the Public Health Committee for the pleasant way in which the work has been handled.

In conclusion, the co-operation of all members of your staff has been sought and freely given through the year, and I gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to them all.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. H. M. DUMMER

Medical Officer of Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	329	270	599
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	10	26
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	345	280	625
Live birth rate per 1,000 population - crude								..	..	16.79
corrected								..	..	17.62
<u>Still births</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	6	10
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births										15.74
Total live and still births								349	286	635
<u>Infant deaths</u>								15	2	17
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births										27.20
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate										
live births										23.37
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000										
illegitimate live births										115.38
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks										
per 1,000 total live births										20.80
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1										
week per 1,000 total live births										14.40
Perinatal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week and										
stillbirths combined per 1,000 total live										
and still births										29.92
Maternal mortality (including abortion)										Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and										
still births										-
<u>Deaths</u>										
Total deaths								230	180	410
Death rate per 1,000 population - crude								..	..	11.01
corrected								..	..	11.23
Death rate for England and Wales										11.6

Comparative table showing birth rate, death rate, and infantile mortality rate.

Malling R.D.C.	Per 1,000 estimated mid-year Home Population				Per 1,000 total live and still births	Per 1,000 live births
	Live Birth Rate		Death Rate		Still birth rate	Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age
	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate		
1955	15.50	16.07	9.86	9.66	18.40	10.22
1956	15.52	15.98	10.90	11.23	18.45	32.49
1957	14.90	15.65	10.56	10.88	29.31	17.76
1958	15.71	16.49	10.50	10.71	16.86	20.58
1959	16.79	17.62	11.01	11.23	15.74	27.20
England and Wales 1959	16.5		11.6		20.7	22.0

From the above figures it will be seen that the death rate in Malling Rural District is below that for England and Wales generally, and that its birth rate is above the national figure.

The outstanding feature of the above tables is the disappointing rise in the infantile mortality rate, which is considerably above that of the average figure for the country. Of the infantile deaths amounting to 17, prematurity accounted for 6 and congenital diseases for 2.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During 1959 the total number of cases notified rose very considerably. This was due to the biennial incidence of measles which this year accounted for 792 cases out of an over-all total of 952. This incidence in measles is seen in sharp relief when one considers that the total number in 1958 for this cause was 42.

There was a slight increase in the number of dysentery cases in 1959, 30 as compared with 26 in 1958. The main area affected was Aylosford, and the schools in that district bore the main brunt of the outbreak.

These outbreaks of dysentery always involved a very large follow up, and a great deal of work is undertaken in order that the attack should be kept within as strict limits as possible.

Once again no notifications of diphtheria were received, and the year 1959 passed without any polymyositis cases arising.

The 33 cases of scarlet fever were of a mild nature, and did not give rise to any complications.

The following table shows the distribution throughout the Rural District of the cases of infectious and notifiable diseases notified during the year:-

	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Paralytic (Polio- myelitis Non-Paralytic)	Pneumonia	Pulmonary (Tuber- culosis Non-pulmonary)	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Puerperal pyrexia
Addington	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Aylesford	1	8	155	-	-	3	22	-	-	-
Birling	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Borough Green	3	26	23	-	6	-	-	-	1	-
Burham	6	-	6	-	-	1	5	-	-	-
Ditton	-	-	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ightham	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Leybourne	1	-	8	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
East Malling	6	7	178	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
West Malling	4	3	81	-	1	3	1	-	-	-
Mereworth	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offham	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
East Peckham	1	4	25	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
West Peckham	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Platt	3	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
Plaxtol	2	1	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ryarsh	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shipbourne	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snodland	-	-	145	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Stansted	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wateringbury	1	-	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Trottiscliffo	-	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wouldham	4	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrotham	2	-	10	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
	38	55	792	-	13	15	5	30	4	-

The following table relates to the incidence of Notifiable Disease according to disease, sex and age groups.

	Scarlet Fovor		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	12	9	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	67	58	-	-
3 - 4	3	2	6	2	-	-	-	-	94	73	-	-
5 - 9	9	13	14	14	-	-	-	-	232	211	-	-
10 - 14	4	6	1	3	-	-	-	-	14	14	-	-
15 - 24	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
25 & over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	17	21	27	28	-	-	-	-	424	368	-	-
		38		55	-	-	-	-		792	-	-
Quarter Ending												
31.3.59	4	3	11	12	-	-	-	-	314	250	-	-
30.6.59	3	1	9	7	-	-	-	-	93	109	-	-
30.9.59	5	10	2	1	-	-	-	-	15	9	-	-
31.12.59	5	7	5	8	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

	Dysentery		Acute Pneumonia		Smallpox		Acute Encephalitis				Enteric or typhoid fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Infective		Post-infective		M	F
Under 5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	5	14	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 44	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	14	16	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		30		13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter Ending												
31. 3.59	2	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. 6.59	3	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. 9.59	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.12.59	5	9	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Para typhoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Meningo- coccal Infection		Food Poisoning		Puerperal Pyrexia	Opthalmia Neonatorum		Malaria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 44	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-		4		-		-			-		-	
Quarter Ending													
31. 3.59	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. 6.59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. 9.59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.12.59	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Tuberculosis					
	Pulmonary		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	1
5 - 14	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	1	-	-	-	1
25 - 44	-	2	-	-	1	2
45 - 64	8	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	1	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	5	-	-	1	4
	15		-	-	5	
Quarter Ending						
31. 3.59	5	1	-	-	1	2
30. 6.59	2	1	-	-	-	2
30. 9.59	1	1	-	-	-	-
31.12.59	2	2	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

The table set out below records in age groups the new cases recorded in the register during the year, together with the number of deaths which occurred.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	-
45 - 64	8	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
65 & over	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	5	1	4	7	1	-	-
	15		5		8		-	

I am indebted to Dr. D. L. Pugh, the Chest Physician, for the following details of the numbers of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis examined during the year, and the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis. These figures relate to the area of the Chest Clinic which coincides with the area of the four authorities, Maidstone Borough, Maidstone R. D., Hollingbourn R. D., and Malling R. D.

- (a) Number of contacts seen during 1959 of newly notified cases of tuberculosis 236
- (b) Number of contacts examined during 1959 of cases notified prior to 1959 751
- (c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis 2
- (d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis 6

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following table gives (A) the number of second injections and (B) the number of third injections given during the year ended 31st December 1959.

Year of Birth	(A)	(B)
1959	58	-
1958	380	141
1957	104	307
1956	82	294
1955	63	298
1954	57	341
1953	83	365
1952	82	380
1951	100	389
1950	87	402
1949	76	408
1948	101	396
1947	108	484
1946	86	449
1945	55	343
1944	71	310
1943	72	206
Before 1943	2,210	799
Others	203	112
TOTAL	4,078	6,424

From the above table it will be seen that 6,424 people received full courses of three injections against poliomyelitis. It was not until September 1958 that the Minister of Health gave permission for this third injection, and since that time the response to the full course has been good.

During the year permission was also given to extend the age limit for protection; this is now available to all persons up to the age of 40, and to certain other classes of people who are more liable to infection.

It is to be hoped that the present favourable level will be maintained by reinforcing injections carried out at an interval which it is not yet possible to estimate.

The degree of immunity conferred by third injections certainly is a worthwhile basis on which to make an estimate of the community immunity.

WHOOPIING COUGH IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the whooping cough immunisation return for 1959 based on record cards received by the County Medical Officer.

Year of Birth	Whooping Cough Immunisation Primary
1959	203
1958	203
1957	22
1956	15
1955	8
1954	4
1953	2
1952	-
1951	1
1950	-
1949	2
1948	-
1947	1
1946	-
1945	-
Before 1945	1

There has been a falling off in 1959 in the response to whooping cough immunisation, and the aggregate shows a fall of 38 on the previous year.

It is a pity that the available protection against this disease should not be more fully appreciated. Although it is generally held that whooping cough is a relatively mild disease, it is still a hazard in infant life, and every opportunity should be taken to protect babies from the potential ravages of the illness.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

The following table shows the smallpox vaccination return for 1959, based on record cards received by the County Medical Officer.

Year of Birth	Smallpox vaccination	
	Primary	Reinforcing
1959	130	-
1958	170	-
1957	10	-
1956	5	-
1955	4	-
1954	1	1
1953	2	1
1952	-	-
1951	3	-
1950	-	-
1949	-	-
1948	4	-
1947	-	-
1946	1	-
1945	2	-
Before 1945	8	8
TOTAL	340	10

The number of smallpox vaccinations rose considerably in the year by 104 over last year's total. An important point about smallpox vaccination today is the degree of convenience in being vaccinated in infancy rather than in adult life. International Certificates of Vaccination are required all over the world, and the difference is very considerable from the point of view of possible consequences which affect an adult immediately prior to travel.

It is also true to say that smallpox is only kept at bay by the level of immunity which vaccination confers, and it is one of the diseases which could well become a real hazard if the degree of immunity falls below the required standard.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December 1959, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January 1945).

Year of Birth	Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1954 - 1958	1953 or earlier
1945	63	269
1946	91	343
1947	247	346
1948	131	307
1949	154	456
1950	324	214
1951	300	214
1952	206	295
1953	192	247
1954	406	28
1955	388	-
1956	361	-
1957	318	-
1958	284	-
1959	76	-
TOTAL	3,541	2,719

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation figures for 1959 based on record cards received by the County Medical Officer.

Year of Birth	Diphthoria Immunisation	
	Primary	Reinforcing
1959	76	-
1958	240	1
1957	28	2
1956	11	2
1955	2	6
1954	2	74
1953	4	46
1952	-	17
1951	-	5
1950	1	3
1949	-	11
1948	-	1
1947	1	5
1946	-	2
1945	-	-
Before 1945	-	-
TOTAL	365	175

The National Assistance Acts 1948 and 1951

Twenty-four visits were made to nine old persons during the year to investigate their living conditions, and to endeavour to improve such conditions.

It was necessary to apply to a Justice of the Peace for Orders under the Amendment Act of 1951 in respect of four elderly ladies. Three of these were removed to Linton, and the other to West View Home, Tenterden.

In addition, two of the cases entered Institutions voluntarily, one man being admitted to West View, Tenterden, and an elderly lady to Linton.

The three remaining cases were being kept under active review at the year's end, and it was not necessary to take any further action in respect of them up to that time.

CANCER

Below is an analysis of the deaths from malignant disease according to age groups.

Deaths from Cancer during 1959

Age groups	Male	Female
0 - 1 year	-	-
2 - 5 years	-	-
6 - 15 "	-	-
16 - 25 "	-	-
26 - 35 "	1	1
36 - 45 "	2	2
46 - 55 "	4	8
56 - 65 "	11	7
66 years & over	29	23
TOTALS	47	41

Deaths from cancer in 1959, distributed according to sites

Site	Male	Female	Total
Cancer of stomach	8	4	12
Cancer of lung, bronchus	17	4	21
Cancer of breast	-	9	9
Cancer of uterus	-	4	4
Other sites	22	20	42
TOTALS	47	41	88

The number of deaths from cancer in 1959 rose by 27. The increase occurred mainly in cancer of the lung, cancer of the breast, and other unspecified sites. It should be noted from the above table that the main weight of cancer mortality is still borne by the older age groups, although an increasing number of cases is appearing in the middle years of life.

DEATHS - PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Addington	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	5
Aylesford	6	6	3	3	4	2	2	3	3	4	4	10	50
Birling	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	5
Borough Green	1	4	2	-	5	3	5	1	3	2	2	5	33
Burham	1	3	2	1	2	1	-	2	-	3	-	3	18
Ditton	1	4	4	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	3	19
Ightham	3	4	3	2	3	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	19
Leybourne	6	4	3	3	7	3	-	1	3	-	1	1	32
East Malling	6	7	4	1	3	3	4	1	2	4	4	-	39
West Malling	3	2	3	3	4	1	3	1	1	2	2	3	28
Mereworth	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	5
Offham	-	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	7
East Peckham	4	1	1	2	3	-	3	2	-	1	7	2	26
West Peckham	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Platt	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	7
Plaxtol	-	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	3	11
Ryarsh	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	8
Shipbourne	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	7
Snodland	3	5	3	7	1	4	6	1	4	1	6	3	44
Stansted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trottiscliffe	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	6
Wateringbury	1	1	1	-	3	3	-	-	2	1	3	2	17
Wouldham	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	4	11
Wrotham	2	1	-	-	2	2	-	1	1	1	1	-	11
	44	54	36	27	43	28	27	17	28	30	34	42	410

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality 1959

Area	Rate per 1,000 population	Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 population					Rate per 1,000		
		Live Births	All causes	Tuberculosis	Cancer of Lung	Other cancer	Total deaths under 1 year	Live Births	Related Births
England and Wales	16.5		11.6	.08 P	.46 P	1.68 P	22.0		Still Births 20.7
Hollingbourn R.D.	17.81		9.76	-	.59	1.18	20.97		20.54
Maidstone R.D.	17.53		9.55	.10	.46	1.97	27.95		15.29
Malling R.D.	17.62		11.23	.21	.56	1.80	27.20		15.74
Maidstone Borough	16.69		10.49	.14	.37	1.57	20.87		24.65
County of Kent	15.63		11.67	.07	.52	1.95	18.22		19.18

P - Provisional Rates

Causes of Deaths - 1959

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infection	1	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung	17	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	20
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1
16. Diabetes	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	27	22
18. Coronary disease, angina	39	24
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	6
20. Other heart disease	14	28
21. Other circulatory disease	14	7
22. Influenza	2	3
23. Pneumonia	13	20
24. Bronchitis	11	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	3	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	19
33. Motor vehicle accidents	10	-
34. All other accidents	5	1
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<hr/> 230	<hr/> 180

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
High Street,
WEST MALLING,
Kent.

6th July 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Malling,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my twelfth Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances existing in the Rural District for the year ended 31st December 1959.

Probably the most noteworthy point during the year under review was the improvement in the cesspool emptying service. For the first time for many years it was possible during the latter part of the year to operate this service normally with an absolute minimum of overtime. This position was brought about by the completion of the Aylesford and Ditton Sewerage Scheme, and the ready connection of the houses to the new sewer, plus the provision of a new emptying machine additional to establishment. It should now be possible to maintain this service without difficulty, and to improve on it to the extent of increasing the number of emptyings given each year. The problem of disposal of cesspool contents still remains and will not be solved satisfactorily until adequate plant to deal with same is provided at the sewage works.

Our refuse collection service is not so satisfactory and is oftentimes criticised by ratepayers. However, it is not possible to improve this service all at once, but it is hoped to improve it during 1960 to the extent of emptying all dustbins in the district at weekly intervals. The recruitment of suitable manpower is still the most difficult problem.

All aspects of sanitation and environmental hygiene received adequate attention during the year. The slum clearance programme progressed satisfactorily, and at the year's end had reached the stage where it is possible to say that the five year programme will be reached and probably surpassed by the end of the period, which is the 31st December 1960.

Inspection of all meat at the slaughterhouses was maintained at the now recognised level of 100%, and much time was spent on the control of all other foodstuffs, food preparing premises, shops etc. It was possible to provide adequate coverage to this important public health work, and to carry out routine sampling as required. An unchanged staff has generally assisted in this respect.

A summary of the work carried out during the year follows, with comments on each subject:-

HOUSING

Work on the Slum Clearance programme continued satisfactorily during the year. In all 29 new official representations were made, resulting in the making of 9 Demolition Orders, 18 Closing Orders, and the acceptance of 5 undertakings not to use the dwellings for further habitation until they are made fit to the satisfaction of the Council. Three of the Closing Orders were made as a result of official representations made in 1958. 11 Houses were demolished during the year.

41 families comprising 132 persons were rehoused by the Council from unfit houses during the year. The Council's policy to continue building and their support in allocating a proportion of houses for the purpose of dealing with slum property, has ensured the success of the programme. Very good progress has been made with the five year programme, and from a check on the position at the end of 1959, it is apparent that the target figure of 227 unfit houses to be dealt with will be reached and probably surpassed by the end of 1960, when the programme is timed for completion. This does not mean that slum clearance may then become a closed book, and it will be necessary to continue to deal with unfit houses for some time yet, although probably not to the same degree as has been the case during the past 4 years.

1534 visits of inspection were made under this heading during the year, and it was necessary to serve 82 informal and 14 statutory notices requiring housing repairs. The table which follows this section of the report sets out in detail a summary of the repairs effected. Set out below are the number of houses rendered fit during 1959.

Houses made fit after informal action by Local Authority - 44

"	"	"	"	formal	"	"	"	"	5
---	---	---	---	--------	---	---	---	---	---

The number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair fell sharply during 1959, when only 11 applications were received against 63 for the previous year. In all 117 applications have been received and dealt with since the advent of the Rent Act 1957.

This fall off in the number of applications dealt with appears to indicate that those landlords who intend to take advantage of the higher rents offered by the Act have now done so, and have faced up to their responsibilities in carrying out essential repairs. However, in my opinion there are still a lot of houses where landlords have not raised rents because they either cannot afford, or are not prepared, to carry out repairs. It is to this group that further propaganda on the Act must be directed.

In respect of the 11 cases dealt with during the year, 8 satisfactory undertakings to carry out the work required were received from landlords, and it was necessary to serve only 2 actual Disrepair Certificates. In the remaining case, the tenant bought his cottage, and Rent Act procedure was shelved.

Applications for Improvement Grants are dealt with by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. C. Brown, who has supplied the following information:-

Number of schemes submitted	79
" " " approved	78
Total cost of such improvement and conversion	£23,477
Total cost of grants made	£15,675

All the above were Discretionary Improvement Grants. No Standard Grant was made up to the year's end, although there have been many since.

The number of grants made, viz., 78, is more than double that for 1958 when the figure was 30, whilst the cost, viz., £15,675, was almost double that of £8,364 for 1958. It is pleasing to note that more people are taking advantage of these grants for in this way many houses are being rendered fit instead of deteriorating to a state of having to be considered for slum clearance action. With the advent of the Standard Grant it is expected that during the forthcoming year the number of grants will increase still further.

The number of new dwellings erected in the rural district during 1959 was as follows:-

By Local Authority	154
By Private Enterprise	270
	<hr/>
	424
	<hr/>

The following table sets out the sanitary works effected to existing premises during the year under review:-

W.C.'s provided	17
W.C.'s repaired	21
Wash basins provided/renewed/cleansed	10
Sinks provided/renewed	10
Water heaters provided	1
Baths provided	5
Cesspools provided/renewed	14
Urinals provided/renewed	2
Inspection chambers provided/renewed	21
Gullies repaired/renewed	5
Drains laid/altered/repared	31
Choked drains cleansed	13
Pail or earth closets converted	1
Chimney stacks repaired/renewed	12
Roofs repaired	45
R.W. gutters & pipes repaired/renewed	42
External walls repaired	46
Internal walls & ceilings repaired	99
Floors and staircases repaired	66
Doors and windows repaired/renewed	159
Grates and ranges repaired/renewed	11
Ceppors repaired/renewed	1
Dampness remedied	50
Dirty premises cleansed	2
Dustbins provided	54
New hepper huts provided	36
Concrete floors provided to Hopper huts	18
Accumulations removed	4
Houses painted	10
Yard paving repaired	1
Domestic animals nuisance	3
Chemical closet provided	1
Fireplaces renewed	4
Food shops cleansed/redecorated/etc.	50
Larder provided	1
Covers provided to water storage tanks	5
Nuisance Chicken house abated	3
New pail provided to pail closet	1
Number of informal notices served during 1959	82
Number of formal notices served during 1959	14
Number of complaints received during 1959	455

HOP PICKING

The picking season during 1959 proved to be of short duration and was completed within three weeks. 29 Camps were in use housing an estimated 2,245 pickers. This is a decrease of 2,305 in the number of pickers for the previous year. As there are approximately 1,800 huts in the district it is obvious that there was no overcrowding. At farms where machines are in use only very few huts are occupied and families living there not only have their choice of huts, but have two or three huts depending on the size of their families. This means that they are able to cook and eat in one hut and sleep in another.

15 Machines operated during the season, an increase of 4 over the previous year. This increase in machines reflects the decrease in the number of pickers. It is expected that the number of machines will increase further next year.

80 visits of inspection were made to camps to ensure compliance with the bye-laws. It was necessary to require a few growers to carry out works to the primitive earth latrines. Matters were quickly put right and generally conditions were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES

The majority of the premises within the rural district are served by the mains of Mid Kent Water Company, but a small number of houses, 158 in all, are supplied by the mains of the Maidstone Waterworks Company, the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Water Company and the Medway Water Board. In addition 199 premises receive their water from five private sources of supply as detailed below:-

Houses supplied by piped supply from private sources:-

Tottington Spring Supply	.. .. .	43
British Quarrying Co., Supply B/Green	.. .. .	6
Hamptons Private Supply, West Peckham	.. .. .	29
Hermitage Farm Supply, Aylesford	.. .. .	6
Fairlawne Private Supply, Shipbourne	.. .. .	115
		<u>199</u>

At the 31st December 1959, 97.85% of the houses within the district were being supplied with piped water from public mains, and a further 1.7% from private sources of supply.

All supplies are subject to regular sampling, and the following table gives the results of samples taken during 1959:-

Type of Water	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Raw Water	57	39	18	2	2	-
Treated	22	21	1	3	3	-

Of the 19 unsatisfactory samples 7 were group samples taken from a private supply at West Peckham which was found to be liable to intermittent pollution, in an attempt to find the cause of the pollution. Instructions were issued for all water to be boiled before use, and further samples proved satisfactory.

3 samples were taken from a proposed watercress bed at Basted, the owner intending to sell watercress to the public. The bacteriological results were bad and so the project was abandoned.

In the case of 3 samples taken from a private supply at Borough Green, the pollution was found to have been caused by children gaining access to the spring. This was remedied and further samples proved satisfactory.

2 Unsatisfactory samples were taken from a private supply at Tottington. Bacteriological filters are fitted to properties on this supply, and samples taken through the filters proved satisfactory.

1 unsatisfactory sample was taken from a storage cistern at a Boy Scouts Camping Ground. The tank was cleaned out and covers provided.

1 unsatisfactory sample was taken from a well at Shipbourne which eventually dried up because of the drought. The owner provided a mains supply of water in churns, and at the year's end was investigating the possibility of connecting the two cottages concerned to a mains supply.

1 unsatisfactory sample was taken from a private supply at Shipbourne. It was found that a storage tank had been tampered with; chlorination was increased and repairs were carried out. Further samples proved satisfactory throughout the year.

The remaining unsatisfactory sample was taken from a well at East Peckham. Instructions were issued for all water to be boiled, and the owner requested to connect the 4 houses to a public supply which was readily available. This was carried out during the year.

Extension of mains: 7,539 yards of mains were laid during 1959, as follows:-

Parish	Yards	Size	Water Company
Aylesford	212	3"	Mid Kent Water Company
Aylesford	23	3"	Medway Water Board
Aylesford	210	4"	do.
Borough Green	234	3"	Mid Kent Water Company
Borough Green	54	2"	do.
Burham	164	3"	do.
East Malling	249	3"	do.
East Malling	1,143	6"	do.
Ightham	289	3"	do.
Leybourne	167	6"	do.
Mereworth	1,150	6"	do.
Plaxtol	99	3"	do.
Ryarsh	1,115	12"	do.
Stansted	755	6"	do.
West Peckham	1,675	6"	do.

Delivery of Water. The long dry summer of 1959, delightful as it was, resulted in a record being achieved in the cartage of water to properties dependant on stored rainwater. In all, 23,200 gallons were delivered, an increase of 2,800 gallons over the 1958 figure, and the highest quantity since the advent of the service. Two main areas of the rural district are supplied in this manner, viz., Swanton Valley, West Peckham, and Holly Hill, Birling. More than half of the water so delivered went to Swanton Valley.

The Mid Kent Water Company completed the work of laying a new water main through Swanton Valley during the year, and at the year's end all occupied houses in the area, 8 in number, were connected and for the first time enjoyed the amenity of mains water. This means it will no longer be necessary to cart water to this area.

The possibility of providing mains water to the 8 houses in the Holly Hill area was also investigated during the year, and an estimated cost of the work obtained from the Mid Kent Company. Unfortunately this is a very expensive project, and is estimated to cost almost £600 per dwelling. It is felt that this is a prohibitive figure, but the Public Health Committee decided to approach the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to ascertain whether a grant would be forthcoming, before deciding on what further action to take. The Minister's decision has not yet been received.

Chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of the Mid Kent Water Company's supply, the main supply in this district, are carried out monthly. The results of examinations are consistently satisfactory, showing the water to be of a high standard. The following table denotes the average of the chemical analysis of the water during the year.

	Trosley Pumping Station	Halling Pumping Station
	Parts per million	
Total solid residue	300	248
Chlorine present as chloride	20.5	18.5
Ammonia Free	0.00	0.00
Ammonia albuminoid	0.01	0.005
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.0	2.6
Nitrites Nitrogen	None	None
Oxygen absorbed from (a) in 4 hours	0.02	0.00
Permanganate Solution (b) in 15 mins.	0.00	0.00
Hardness, as CaCO 3 - Temporary	163	156
Permanent	61	34
Total	224	190
Alkalinity as CaCO 3	163	156
Free Carbon Dioxide, as CO2	10	20
Iron	Absent	0.12
Other metals	Absent	Absent
Residual Chlorine	None	0.03
p H	7.5	7.3

METEOROLOGY.

The following data concerning meteorology for the year 1959 (with comparative figures for the four previous years) recorded at East Malling Research Station, has been supplied by the Meteorological Officer of that station:-

	Average Thermometer (Max.)	Average Thermometer (Min.)	Highest Thermometer	Lowest Thermometer	Average Barometer	Total Rainfall (ins.)	Heaviest Rainfall in any one day	No. of days on which rain fell (0.01) & over	35 years average X	Total hours of sunshine
January	42.3	30.0	53	20	29.80	2.19	0.33	14	2.46	85.0
February	45.6	32.9	63	25	30.42	0.09	0.03	6	1.95	71.1
March	52.7	37.8	60	31	29.86	1.61	0.24	19	1.57	105.4
April	57.9	41.8	69	32	29.75	2.02	0.45	18	1.90	148.0
May	64.1	43.3	80	31	30.01	1.12	0.75	5	1.93	234.2
June	70.7	48.1	80	36	30.05	0.98	0.17	11	1.63	259.4
July	75.7	52.2	90	43	30.01	1.61	0.70	9	2.25	290.4
August	75.0	53.1	86	42	30.04	0.84	0.25	11	2.35	238.8
September	72.5	49.0	85	35	30.08	0.11	0.10	2	2.18	214.0
October	64.4	42.8	80	32	29.96	2.87	1.16	14	2.85	169.0
November	51.7	36.4	60	23	29.73	3.53	0.93	18	3.18	59.8
December	48.6	37.3	54	29	29.49	4.45	0.57	26	2.48	25.6
Total/Average for the year					29.85	21.42	1.16	153	26.73	1900.7
Total/Average for the year 1955						25.24	2.23	151	26.10	
do. 1956						24.69	1.30	169	26.10	
do. 1957						24.41	1.28	163	26.73	
do. 1958						21.42	1.16	153	26.73	

X Weighted averages for the 35 year period 1924 - 1959

Wettest Period.

The longest wet period of the year was between 6th and 18th April. The heaviest day's rain was on 26th October, when 1.16 in. of rain fell.

Driest Period.

The driest period was between 2nd and 20th September.

The total rainfall for the year was 5.31 ins. below average.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There was no new legislation during the year on this aspect of the work of the department. All food premises in the district are visited as a routine measure to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, and during the year, 1977 visits were made. The standards laid down are strictly applied, and generally speaking proprietors of food premises have been co-operative and the general trend of gradual improvement has continued. I do not suggest that all food premises are satisfactory in all respects, and constant routine inspection is necessary.

It was necessary to draw attention to unsatisfactory conditions in the ladies conveniences at two food premises catering for large numbers of coaches. Various suggestions have been made, and the position will be watched carefully during the coming year.

During the year one unsatisfactory works canteen was demolished and a new modern canteen erected in its place.

The following table sets out the number of various food premises in the district that are regularly inspected by the District Public Health Inspectors :-

Cafes and Works Canteens	.....	53
Bakehouses	.....	9
Butchers' Shops	.....	31
Fishmongers' Shops	.....	10
Grocers' and General Shops	.....	177
Greengrocers	.....	23
Licensed Premises	.....	104

Slaughterhouses

There were 4 slaughterhouses licensed during the year but only 3 were in regular use, the remaining 1 being unused. The decline in the amount of slaughtering has continued also in the amount of meat condemned. I am pleased to report that there has been a considerable decrease in the amount of meat affected with Tuberculosis, and although careful examination was made in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation, no evidence of *Cysticercus Bovis* was found.

On 1st January 1959, new Regulations, namely the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958, and the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958, came into force. Those Regulations, which set an entirely new standard of construction in respect of slaughterhouses, do not apply fully to existing slaughterhouses until a date appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Prior to which, a report on the position as it relates to the district has to be made to the Minister. On 1st February 1959, the Slaughterhouses Reports (Appointed Day) Order 1959, came into force which appoints 2nd November 1959 as the Appointed Day. This means that the report in relation to the Malling District must be submitted within 12 months from that date.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations 1959 were revoked before they came into force. However, all condemned meat is stained with a green dye to prevent its misuse, and the arrangements with a Glue Company for its collection and processing have continued satisfactorily.

I am pleased to report that the 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered was continued during the year. This necessitated working 225 hours overtime as the majority of slaughtering takes place outside normal working hours, during the evenings and week-ends. This overtime is, in my opinion, time well spent in safeguarding the district's food supplies.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and the amounts condemned during the year:-

	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Goats	Total
Number killed							
Number inspected	53	263	31	262	811	2	1,422
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	1	1	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	63	1	18	14	-	106
Percentage of No. inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	20.68%	23.95%	6.44%	6.21%	1.72%	-	7.38%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	2	-	-	4	-	6
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	.75%	-	-	.49%	-	.42%

Approximate weight condemned - 14 cwts. 2 qtrs. 16 lbs.

Milk Supplies

Routine visits were paid to all premises from which milk is sold; the majority of the distributors are shopkeepers who retail bottled sterilised milk, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

There are 12 registered dairies within the district, and 67 distributors, an increase of 1 over the previous year.

The undermentioned licences to use special designations were granted during the year:-

	Tuberculin tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
Dealers' Licences	18	21	53
Supplementary Licences	7	9	4
Totals	25	30	57

Regular samples were taken from all designated supplies in the area, but the total number of samples was reduced. With only a limited number of suppliers, adequate coverage was maintained and unnecessary duplication avoided. In all 25 samples were taken:- 7 Tuberculin Tested, 11 Pasteurised and 7 Sterilised. Only 1 Tuberculin Tested sample failed the prescribed test. In addition, 4 samples of washed bottles were taken, 2 being unsatisfactory. After advice and repairs being carried out to the bottle washing machine, further samples proved satisfactory.

Voluntary surrender of Foodstuffs

The following quantity of foodstuffs was surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Weight</u>				
	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qtrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>Ozs.</u>
Tinned and bottled fruit	6	10	3	11	15
Tinned vegetables	-	15	-	8	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned meats	1	4	-	14	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned fish	-	-	1	21	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned soups	-	-	1	4	3
Fats	-	-	2	8	8
Cereals	-	-	-	1	-
Bacon	-	4	1	10	-
Preserves	-	-	-	21	9
Fresh Fish	-	-	7	-	-
Tinned Milk	-	-	1	8	14
Poultry	-	-	2	13	-
Sausages	-	-	-	6	-
French Mustard	-	-	-	1	-
Fresh Meats	-	2	-	9	- x
Total	9	0	3	9	$5\frac{1}{2}$

x Including meat surrendered at private slaughterhouses during meat inspection immediately after slaughter.

In addition to the above, the equivalent of 74 pints of condensed and evaporated milk and 448 cases of melons were also surrendered as unfit.

These unfit foods which are surrendered are disposed of at the Council's controlled tips.

Sampling by County Sampling Officers

The following details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within this Rural District during the year ended 31st December 1959, and submitted to the Public Analyst, have been furnished by the Chief Inspector (Mr. S. Strugnoll) of Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, who are the responsible Authority for this purpose in the district.

<u>Article</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>No.</u>
Almonds, Ground	1	B/fd.	34
Aludrex	1	Liquor Chocolates	1
Bloater Fish paste	1	Marmalade	1
Bread	1	Marzipan	1
Butter	1	Mellajuce	1
Buttered Ginger	1	Milk	42
Cheese Spread	1	Milk, Evaporated	1
Chicken Pie	1	Milk Gums	1
Coffee, French	1	Multivite	1
Cream, Double Devon	1	Opas Stomach Powder	1
Cream, Jersey	1	Orange	2
Curry Sauce	1	Orange Squasn	1
Custard Powder	1	Ortanique	
Dates	1	(Citrus Fruit).....	1
Egg Rusks	1	Pilchards in Tomato Sauce ...	1
Essence of Cinnamon		Plum Jam	1
(Medical)	1	Pork Pie	1
Essence of Peppermint	1	Raspberry Split	1
Flour, White	1	Rice	1
Fruit Salad	1	Salmon, Red	1
Friars Balsam B.P.	1	Sausages, Beef	1
Gin	4	Sausages, Pork	2
Glycerine, Lemon and Honey with		Sponge Mixture	1
Ipecacuanha	1	Stemcol	1
Glycerino of Thymol Compound B.P.C..	1	Tea	1
Glucose 'D'	1	Throat Specific	1
Grape and Blackcurrant Juice		Toffees	1
Health Drink	1	Triple Chocolate Bar	1
Ice Cream	3	Valkem Nerve Tonic	1
Lard	2	Whisky	6
Liquid Paraffin	1	Yorkshire Relish	1
	—		—
	C/fd 34		111
	==		==

Summary

Milks	42
Drugs	12
Spirits	10
Other Samples	47
	—
	111
	==

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

<u>Sample of</u>	<u>Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Pilchards in Tomato Sauce	The tomato solids in the sauce were low (2.1%)	The makers agreed to improve the quality of the sauce.

Ice Cream

There were 128 premises within the district registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. In every case supplies are received from well-known manufacturers, and for this reason the number of samples was reduced this year, as it was felt that with the limited number of brands being sold, adequate coverage could be maintained, and unnecessary duplication avoided. In all 12 samples were taken. Details of results of those samples, together with similar results for the previous four years, are given in the following table:-

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Premises registered for storage and sale	97	86	102	114	128
Grade 1	42 (71.4%)	31 (81.6%)	35 (68.1%)	18 (94.7%)	11 (91.6%)
Grade 2	16 (27.2%)	7 (18.4%)	12 (27.6%)	1 (5.3%)	1 (8.3%)
Grade 3	1 (1.7%)	-	-	-	-
Grade 4	-	-	-	-	-
Total samples ...	59	38	47	19	12

The position with regard to the sale of ice cream is generally satisfactory, and the standard of hygiene employed in its handling is good and well maintained. There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the district.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year under review, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food withdrew direct grant aid to this service. This took place on the 31st March 1959. However, the Ministry continue to carry out research in this field and are always prepared to advise and pass on useful information.

The prolonged illness and ultimate death of the Rodent Operator, Mr. F. Bruce, during the year affected the smooth running of this service, but with the appointment of a new operator it was possible to restore things to normal by the year's end.

The following table gives numerical details of the work carried out:-

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural	All other (inc. Bus- iness premises)	Total
Total number of Properties in Local Authority's area	20	11,703	460	1,534	13,717
Number of Proper- ties inspected as result of notification	-	191	8	49	248
Number of Proper- ties inspected as a result of survey or otherwise X	20	69	93	29	211
Number of Proper- ties inspected which were found to be infested by:-	Rats 16	179	12	26	233
	Mice 1	32	1	15	49
Number of infest- ed properties treated by Local Authority (Completed treat- ments only)	15	181	12	39	247
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	27	237	18	70	352
Number of "Block Control" treatments carried out	61 involving 189 properties				

X Specific rodent control visits. Not including those visits where the primary reason was other than rodent control.

There was an increase in the number of annual contract agreements in relation to agricultural and other business premises and at the year's end 13 contracts were in force with other agreements pending. At the present time these contracts bring in approximately £150 per annum. They are effective also in reducing major infestations by regular inspections and timely treatment of those discovered. It is found by the persons holding these contracts that much money is saved by the prevention of damage to grain, feeding stuffs, etc.

There were no great changes in the methods of treatment during 1959, Warfarin treatment being used predominantly.

PEST CONTROL

Members will be aware that this service is ancillary to that of Rodent Control, and the work is carried out by your Rodent Operator. It is a service which involves the Council in very little financial outlay, but one which is greatly appreciated by the public, and does much to maintain good public relations.

During 1959 the following infestations were treated:-

Ants 3, Beetles 11, Bed Bugs 2, Cockroaches 2,
Flies 16, Flies 20, and Wasps 60, (approx.)

The infestations are treated by various methods according to the pest involved, but in the main D.D.T., lindane and pyrethrin are the insecticides used in either liquid, powder, or smoke generator form.

Regular inspections are carried out at your Holly Hill public open space to ensure that rabbits, which were largely eradicated from the area by myxomatosis, do not regain a foothold. A watch is also kept on the grey squirrel population, but it was not necessary to carry out treatment against these pests during the past year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The following report on the work of the Cleansing Department during 1959 has been supplied by the Cleansing Officer, Mr. A. J. Woller:-

Manpower

The establishment of workmen of the Council is 42, made up as follows:-

- 1 Foreman
- 1 Chargehand and Motor Mechanic
- 1 Assistant motor mechanic (semi skilled)
- 2 Muldozer drivers on refuse disposal
- 20 Refuse collection (7 drivers, 13 collectors)
- 16 Cesspool emptying (8 drivers, 8 mates)
- 1 (Woman) salvager, sorting and baling.

The establishment was increased by 3 during the year, made necessary by the addition of an extra cesspool emptier to the fleet, and the provision of a small side loader refuse collector to attend to the refuse at the hospitals and the litter service. Previously there had been no increase in the basic number of men for the past 4 years, despite a gradual increase in the work.

To maintain the present establishment and particularly to fill vacancies during periods of holidays and sickness is presenting great difficulties, and has reached a stage where efficiency is threatened. Each year the number of houses in the district increases. This, together with the need to improve the present services creates a need for further men, and so increases the difficulties with our manpower. The time will come when serious consideration must be given to the creation of suitable incentives to enrol the necessary labour.

As a kerbside collection of refuse is operated, it means that this service must take priority over cesspool emptying. Thus any shortage of men means denuding the cesspool emptying service so that refuse collection may continue. So in times of shortage, cesspool emptying, and, to some extent, tip control, suffers.

Each person is entitled to a fortnight's holiday between April and September, and this alone represents a loss of 82 weeks work, which means that on average there is a shortage of 3 men per week. To this must be added time lost through sickness.

During the 12 months under review $387\frac{1}{2}$ days were lost through sickness, $52\frac{1}{2}$ days were taken for no given reason, and 29 days taken by request for domestic reasons; a total of 469 days or 85 weeks 3 days; a little more than the loss through holidays. It will be seen by these figures how necessary it is to carry spare men where possible.

Refuse Collection and disposal

With the continued increase in the number of dwellings in the district, the collection service has become very much overloaded, requiring a certain amount of overtime to be worked, to cope with this increased collection and journeys to the tip.

As will be seen from the table below, the total tonnage carried by your vehicles has increased by 770 tons. This, however, does not represent a true picture, for the nature of refuse is changing, and the emphasis is now on bulk rather than weight, and the bulk increase has been much greater. The present day way of life, with greater pre-packaging of foodstuffs, no doubt accounts for the greater bulk of refuse of less weight. Another factor is the increased use of electricity, gas and oil for heating purposes in the home, which means that more materials, normally burnt, find their way into dustbins, thus taking up more space in the bins and collecting vehicles. To cope with this it has been agreed to purchase larger machines with compressed loading to serve the urbanised parishes. During the year under review 10 parishes were given a weekly collection and 14 parishes a fortnightly collection. It is hoped to institute a weekly collection throughout the whole district next year.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at 2 tips - one at Ham Hill, Birling, and the other at Borough Green. Spreading and consolidation is done by mechanical means, a Fordson muldozer being used at one tip and a Bristol Crawler at the other.

The Council's Rodent Operator visits both tips at regular intervals to keep the tips free from rats, and spraying against fly infestation is carried out by the tip men as and when required.

The following table gives the particulars for the last 5 years of refuse and other materials moved by your vehicles:-

Year	Refuse Tons	Hardcore & Covering Tons	Drainage Tons	Salvage Tons	Misc. Tons	Total Tons
1955	9010	1624	713	397	249	11993
1956	9786	1805	428	420	127	12566
1957	10628	1735	192	473	91	13119
1958	10997	1548	246	468	186	13445
1959	12066	1571	245	179	155	14216

Salvage

The salvage position continues to be satisfactory, as will be seen by the table on the following page.

In spite of the fact that a quota was in force for part of the year, we were only about 9 tons down on the previous year with a subsequent drop in receipts.

Total receipts for all salvage during 1959 was £1,819.15. 6. Total expenditure covering wages, bonus, electricity etc. amounted to £720. 4. 3. The credit to the Council of excess of income over expenditure amounted to £1,099.11. 3.

The fact that for the last 5 years the excess of income over expenditure has been over £1,000 per year proves the contention that salvage collection is still worth while.

Year	Wastepaper etc.		Metal, Tins, Rags etc.		Cullett		Miscellaneous		Total	
	Weight		Value		Weight		Value		Weight	
	T. C. Q.	£. s. d.	T. C. Q.	£. s. d.	T. C. Q.	£. s. d.	T. C. Q.	£. s. d.	T. C. Q.	£. s. d.
1955	244. 7. 0.	2,094. 8. 11	13. 6. 3	247. 19. 8.	-	-	Tyres etc.	10. 3. 0.	259. 3. 3.	2,352. 11. 7.
1956	242. 6. 0.	1,955. 3. 1	12. 2. 1	212. 9. 9.	-	-	"	4. 18. 0.	255. 9. 3.	2,172. 10. 10.
1957	210. 8. 2.	1,723. 15. 5	10. 17. 0	197. 1. 6.	3. 8. 1.	3. 8. 3.	"	3. 11. 0.	225. 2. 3.	1,927. 16. 2.
1958	223. 6. 0.	1,793. 13. 0	6. 11. 0	115. 18. 6.	-	-	"	3. 10. 0.	230. 17. 0.	1,913. 1. 6.
1959	214. 10. 2.	1,681. 1. 0	17. 12. 1	134. 3. 6.	-	-	"	4. 11. 0	232. 2. 3.	1,819. 15. 6.

Cesspool Emptying and Disposal

For the first time in many years it is possible to report a considerable improvement in the cesspool emptying service.

With the provision of an extra cesspool emptier to the fleet and with the completion of the Aylosford and Ditton Sewerage Scheme, the arrears of work have gradually decreased. During the first three months of the year, January to March, arrears were between 500 and 600 loads; from April to June, between 500 and 400, and from July to the end of the year dropped steadily to an average of 150, which restored the position to normal. Overtime, which in the previous year was running between 100 and 150 hours per week, has now dropped to less than 10 hours per week.

Disposal is still a problem, and the need for efficient plant to treat cesspool contents at Sewage Disposal Works is still an urgent necessity. It is proposed to provide such plant at West Malling Sewage Works in conjunction with the reconstruction of that Works.

The considerable reduction in the number of loads in connection with sewer flushing and sludge removal from small sewage plants is due to the take over by the Engineer and Surveyor of an old emptier which he uses to perform this work.

LOADS REMOVED					
Year	Cesspools	Flushing	Sludge etc.	Pails	Total
1955	15,367	246	434	158 (23,662 pails)	16,205
1956	15,835	183	387	150 (22,276 pails)	16,555
1957	16,958	255	451	157 (23,484 pails)	17,821
1958	17,665	193	751	156 (21,402 pails)	18,765
1959	15,457	78	277	140 (19,276 pails)	15,952

Garages, Vehicles and Maintenance

With the exception of the two mulodozers, which are kept at the Refuse Tips, all vehicles are housed at the East Malling Depot.

The vehicles, 21 in number, are as follows:-

- 7 Refuse collectors (2 "Paxits", 3 Barrier loaders.
1 Side loader)
- 9 Cesspool emptiers (8 manned, 1 sparo),
- 1 Two Ton Truck,
- 2 Vans (1 Foreman, 1 Rodent Control),
- 2 Mulodozers.

During the year under review 2 new emptiers were purchased, and an old one transferred to the Engineer and Surveyor.

A 7 cubic yard side loading refuse vehicle was added to the fleet, this to deal particularly with the refuse from the two hospitals in the district.

In spite of the increase in the number of vehicles, your fitter and his assistant carry out practically all repairs, very little time being lost through breakdowns.

Particular care is always given to tyre wear, and in order to prolong the life of the tyres, remoulding is done as required.

The following table shows the saving obtained by having tyres remoulded instead of constantly buying new.

Year	No. of Covers Treated	Cost of New tyres	Cost of Treatment	Saving X
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1955	33	613. 15. 0.	287. 10. 0.	326. 5. 0.
1956	32	607. 11. 6.	284. 7. 0.	323. 4. 6.
1957	42	840. 0. 6.	424. 0. 0.	416. 0. 6.
1958	28	543. 12. 6.	274. 16. 6.	268. 16. 0.
1959	24	517. 5. 6.	268. 14. 6.	248. 11. 0.

X A "Commercial Users" discount scheme is in operation, therefore the full saving is as follows:-

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
	£. s. d	£. s. d	£. s. d	£. s. d	£. s. d
Full retail					
Saving	326. 5. 0	323. 4. 6	416. 0. 6	268.16. 0	248.11. 0
Plus "C.U."					
Discount	24. 9. 4	24. 4. 9	31.16. 0	20.12. 3	20. 3. 1
FULL SAVING	350.14. 4	347. 9. 3	447.16. 6	289. 8. 3	268.14. 1

FACTORIES

The following tables show the number of inspections of factories carried out and the details of defects found:-

1. Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Notices	Owners Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	4	6	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	160	239	9	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	21	27	-	-
Total	185	272	9	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (s.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (s.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadoquate Ventilation (s.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(s.7)					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	6	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences not including offences relat- ing to Home Work	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	9	7	-	-	-

Outworkers: At the year's end there were 6 outworkers in the district, employed as follows:-

Wearing apparel 2

Furniture and Upholstery 4

14 routine visits were made to outworkers' premises during 1959, and conditions were found to be satisfactory in each case.

SMOKE CONTROL

During the year, the provisions of the Clean Air Act 1956 continued to be implemented.

A letter was sent to all factory managements drawing their attention to the provisions of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations of 1958, and soliciting their co-operation in observing the spirit of the Act. This appears to have paid dividends for although a close watch was kept on all factory chimneys in the district, and a total of 44 recorded observations taken, only 1 proved unsatisfactory. Enquiries were made at the brickworks concerned when it was found that a trainee stoker was on duty. Advice was given and the management requested to ensure that adequate supervision was given to all unskilled stokers. Further observations proved satisfactory. It was not necessary to institute legal proceedings during the period under review.

During the year it was decided to adopt the Model Bye-law requiring the provision in new houses of fireplaces capable of burning smokeless fuel. This is with an eye to the future should it become necessary to establish smokeless zones.

SHOPS ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Shops Act is dealt with primarily whilst visiting shops for various other duties. During the year under review a total of 434 visits were made under the Act to check on the welfare provisions and to advise on closing hours etc.

Apart from the small owner-occupied shops, the tendency to close before the hours set by the Act still prevails, and it was not necessary to resort to legal proceedings. One complaint was received regarding Sunday Trading and a warning was issued in this case.

Special visits are made to shops on change of occupancy, and the terms of the legislation explained to the occupier. Brochures setting out the principal provisions of the Act are always left.

No Order was made suspending the operation of the Act during Christmas week, but despite this no infringements were noted.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are 3 privately owned swimming pools open to the public in the district.

2 open-air pools are on the main road A20, and the third which is an indoor pool is at Blue Bell Hill, being owned and run by the Boy Scouts Association. Two of the pools are used by organised parties from schools, one of which viz., the Blue Bell Hill pool is also used by swimming clubs from the Medway Towns. Regular sampling is carried out and the swimming pools are under constant supervision, particularly during the summer season.

124 bacteriological samples were taken during the year. Of these 107 proved to be satisfactory and 17 unsatisfactory. In addition 1 chemical sample was taken and this proved satisfactory.

Of the 17 unsatisfactory samples 10 were taken from the Blue Bell Hill pool. Advice on operating the treatment plant was given, and the plant was overhauled. Further samples proved satisfactory.

7 further unsatisfactory samples were taken from one of the open-air pools. Following advice to the operator further samples proved satisfactory.

In addition to the above, 2 bacteriological and 1 chemical samples were taken from the River Bourne at East Pockham at the request of a ratepayer who wished to use a stretch of the river for private bathing. The results of these samples were unsatisfactory, and following advice the person concerned abandoned his idea of bathing therein.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During 1959 there were 14 licensed sites within the district accommodating 56 caravans, an increase of 13 over the figure for the previous year. 49 of these moveable dwellings were housed on 7 sites, including 10 caravans on one site in the parish of Wrotham, which is licensed for the summer months only. The remaining 7 sites house individual caravans, and these relate chiefly to caretakers' vans at works and other premises.

234 visits of inspection were made under this heading during the year chiefly to ensure compliance with the conditions of licence and to deal with caravans that from time to time are parked on unlicensed land. In this latter connection it was necessary to serve 2 Statutory notices to enforce removal of the vans.

These unlicensed sites are often devoid of any public health amenities, and it is essential to deal with them in the early stages before the caravans become established. It is dangerous to turn the blind eye to any one such moveable dwelling for this could so easily lead to a mushroom growth difficult to control or remove. Problems do present themselves from time to time, but I do not consider that any serious problem exists in the district at the moment. Early action has prevented the position from deteriorating.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION

During the year 1981 inspections were carried out in connection with work of the Department, comprised as follows:-

Food premises

Number of visits to	Bakehouses	36
" " "	" Butchers' Shops	174
" " "	" Grocers' Shops	190
" " "	" Greengrocers	35
" " "	" General	152
" " "	" Confectioners	57
" " "	" Fishmongers' Shops	32
" " "	" Cafes	165
" " "	" Works Canteens	33
" " "	" Public Houses	123
" " "	" Knackers' Yards	2
" " "	" Slaughterhouses	67
" " "	" Meat Inspection	306
" " "	" Piggeries	7
" " "	" Milk Supplies	129
" " "	" Ice Cream & Ham (Sect. 16)	212
" " "	" Food Condemnation	142
" " "	" Food Factories	60
" " "	" Slaughtermen's Licences	14
" " "	" Dairies	33
" " "	" Mobile Food Shops	8

Environmental Hygiene and Miscellaneous

Number of Visits to	Factorios	272
" " "	" Outworkers	14
" " "	" re Trade Waste	1
" " "	" Aged persons	24
" " "	" Dirty premises	8
" " "	" Premises re rat and/or mice infestation (including 2041 by Rodent Operator)	2,724
" " "	" Premises re pest and/or vermin (other than rats or mice)	220
" " "	" Premises re notifiable and infectious diseases	469
" " "	" Inspection re refuse accumulation and/or manure heaps	35
" " "	" Visits carried out under Housing and/or Public Health Acts	1,534
" " "	" Housing Inspection in connection with rehousing	37
" " "	" Visits re sewerage and sewage disposal	9
" " "	" " Cesspools septic tanks, drains etc.	419
" " "	" " Rivers, streams, ditches etc.	38
" " "	" Swimming Pools	73
" " "	" re Drinking Water	180
" " "	" Public assembly	32
" " "	" Hop Pickers' Camps	80
" " "	" Mobile dwellings	234
" " "	" re Petroleum	160
" " "	" Flooding	20
" " "	" Land Charges	23
" " "	" Civil Defence	1
" " "	" Domestic Animals (Nuisance)	22
" " "	" Rent Acts	113
" " "	" Refuse Disposal	16
" " "	" Miscellaneous	365
" " "	" Smoko	119
" " "	" Shops Acts	434

Number of visits to	Waste Food Boiling Plants	21
" " " "	Houses let in lodgings	1
" " " "	Agricultural (S. H. and W. P.) Oct. 1956	46
" " " "	Refuse Collection	79
" " " "	Public Conveniences	1
" " " "	Hairdressers	1
" " " "	Offensive smells	8
" " " "	Noise nuisances	17
" " " "	Cesspool emptying	24
" " " "	Holly Hill	31
" " " "	Riding Establishments	9

In conclusion I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to the Council for their continued support and interest during the year, and to the staff for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemon,

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. COLDRICK

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Parish	Number of Houses according to Valuation List as at 31.12.59	Area (Acres)	Population (Estimated)
Addington	200	1,119	511
Aylesford	1,425	4,013	4,554
Birling	418	1,801	803
Borough Green	760	480	1,721
Burham	504	1,632	1,820
Ditton	604	1,066	1,751
Ightham	517	2,278	1,454
Leybourne	182	755	1,686
East Malling	1,355	2,787	3,345
West Malling	741	1,379	3,437
Mereworth	217	2,556	991
Offham	219	1,479	692
East Peckham	658	3,337	1,899
West Peckham	103	1,582	370
Platt	378	1,827	1,088
Plaxtol	340	2,406	1,016
Ryarsh	247	1,375	754
Shipbourne	154	2,007	454
Snodland	1,277	1,958	4,221
Stansted	164	1,974	551
Trottiscliffe	154	1,155	400
Wateringbury	367	1,377	1,153
Wouldham	266	1,855	898
Wrotham	455	3,457	1,641
TOTALS:	11,703	45,655	37,210

Summary

Area of district (in acres)	45,655
Registrar General's estimate of Mid Year Home Population	37,210
Average density of persons per acre .....	.815
Number of inhabited dwellings (31.12.59) according to Valuation List	11,703
Average density of dwellings	1 per 3,901 acres
Average number of persons per dwelling inhabited	3.179
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.60)	£611,810
Sum represented by a penny rate (1959-60)	£2,398

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